

EPHESUS — A CITY BROUGHT TO JESUS

Acts 19:1-21

Acts 19:1 ...*And finding certain disciples*, Disciples of John the Baptist.

1. Believed preaching of John as related to coming of Messiah and not to Holy Spirit.
2. Had very little, if any, knowledge of life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Acts 19:4-5
3. Didn't understand workings of Holy Spirit.
4. Hearts open and thirsty to Word of God.

Paul uses two questions:

1. Your relationship to Holy Spirit? *Have you received the Holy Spirit?*

Acts 19:2 unaware of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Typical of many Christians today.

2. Your baptism count? *Acts 19:3... Unto what then were ye baptized?*

What was purpose/significance of your baptism?

With what teaching/doctrine did you identify when you believed?

They had been baptized twice.

- As OT Jews — ceremonially clean
- As Disciples of Jn — Baptism unto repentance...forgiveness of sins...morally clean.

And they said, Unto John's baptism. We identified with doctrine of John the Baptist when we were baptized.

Our baptism identified us with fact that we must repent from sin and unbelief and place our trust in fact that Messiah was coming...or had come. His name is Jesus Christ.

Acts 19:4 They had repented of sin and turned to Christ Jesus.

However, their faith was incomplete like Apollos

Acts 19:5 When they heard that their baptism wasn't right baptism they were baptized *in the name of the Lord Jesus*. Identified with death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Re-baptized** with new significance.

Acts 19:6 *Laid his hands upon them:* **symbol of identification.**

Church in transition. The Holy Spirit came upon believers in 4 stages:

- Acts 2 — **Jews** -- The Day of Pentecost
- Acts 8 — **Samaritans**
- Acts 10 — **Gentiles** in the home of Cornelius.
- Acts 19 — **Disciples of John**.

Not always tongues.

Acts 19:8 Paul boldly challenging them to repent and turn to Jesus

Kingdom:

1. Salvation
2. Lordship
3. Christ's Earthly Rule

Acts 19:9 Paul ministered to those who were open.

Acts 19:10 2 yrs @ 5 hrs/day = 352days X 5hrs = 1760 hrs. Taught book of Romans

Acts 19:11 Extraordinary miracles.

Acts 19:12 *Handkerchiefs:* sudaria — sweat rags. *Aprons:* simikinthia -- sashes or girdles that went about the loins. Became means God used to heal diseased and expel demons.

Acts 19:13 Vagabond Jews: Itinerant, strolling, wandering Jews. Traveled around country practicing exorcism. **Exorcists:** Thayers: *one who employs a formula of conjuration for expelling demons*

Came up with a plan--experiment by using name of Lord Jesus...authority of Jesus.

They knew power of name of Jesus but didn't know Lord Jesus.

Interested in obtaining formulas. Intellectual and academic knowledge of Jesus. Didn't realize: There is no power in name of Jesus without personal relationship *We adjure you ...* We order to you come out by the same Jesus that Paul preaches.

Acts 19:14 Sceva. Either a member or one of high priestly families, or obtained title of priest to impress clients.

Acts 19:15 Jesus I know: ginosko – know by experience that no match for Jesus.

Paul I know: almost as much afraid of Paul as Jesus, Paul's master.

But who are ye? You are frauds. You have no authority.

Acts 19:16 Leaped on them: Sprang on them. **And overcame them:** gained control of them

Prevailed: forced. **Wounded:** bodily injury to them – bloody...broken bones.

Acts 19:17 Fear fell on them all: All the city. **and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.**

The name, authority, reputation of the Lord Jesus made great, celebrated, made to look great.

Acts 19:18 Came: Responded publicly. **Confessed:** acknowledged. Made profession.

Showed: announced, made known. Became transparent. Openly confessed

Acts 19:19 Curious arts: trinkets, formulas, sorceries, incantations.

Books: Instructional manuals of magic.

Fifty thousand pieces of silver – 50,000 days wages.

Acts 19:20 Mightily: with much strength, power and dominion.

Spontaneous – immediate response to power of God.

How to bring a city to Jesus

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| 1. Preaching of the <u>Kingdom</u> (Paul in the synagogue) | 1. Be aggressive in preaching the kingdom – Jesus is Lord of all. |
| 2. Division – hardened hearts; school of Tyrannus | 2. Reach the reachable and teach the teachable. |
| 3. Faithful teaching and <u>preaching</u> – 2 years | 3. It takes time – consistent sowing of the seed. |
| 4. Special miracles | 4. God's power is evident. Answers to prayer, changed lives. |
| 5. " <u>Name</u> only" crowd is exposed | 5. Hypocrites exposed. |
| 6. Repentance and belief evidenced | 6. Public profession a byproduct of true repentance. |
| 7. <u>Word</u> of God grew | 7. Revival |